

7 SEP 1959

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1958

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F. J. HALLINAN,  
M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
*Area Medical Officer, No. 7 Area,  
Monmouthshire,  
District Medical Officer,  
Pontypool Urban District.*

MARKET BUILDINGS,  
CRANE STREET,  
PONTYPOOL, MON.

APRIL, 1959.



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# PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1958

Area of District .. .. .	15,907 acres
Rateable value (1.4.'58) .. .. .	£355,581
Estimated net product of 1d. rate (1958-59) .. .. .	£1,353
Number of inhabited houses (1.4.'58) .. .. .	12,488
Number of Council-owned houses (31.12.'58) .. .. .	3,595
Number of Council houses built during 1958 .. .. .	62
Population (Estimated mid-1958) .. .. .	40,290
Census population, 1951	
(21,242 males and 21,461 females) .. .. .	42,703
Census population, 1931	
(22,523 males and 21,187 females) .. .. .	43,910
Number of live births (1958) .. .. .	623
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	15.5
Stillbirths .. .. .	17
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	26.6
Total live and stillbirths .. .. .	640
Number of deaths (1958) .. .. .	461
Death rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	11.4
Infant deaths .. .. .	16
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total .. .. .	25.7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate .. .. .	24.1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate .. .. .	55.6
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
(first four weeks) .. .. .	14.45
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. .. .	2.89
Maternal deaths (including abortion) .. .. .	NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	NIL

Year	Births	Deaths
1948	744	478
1949	740	531
1950	743	510
1951	697	568
1952	699	507
1953	683	466
1954	628	480
1955	563	510
1956	571	543
1957	593	475
1958	623	461

# PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Councillors:

Chairman: MRS. M. L. LEE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: D. T. GULLICK

## Wards:

### *Garndiffaith:*

S. H. BATH

K. T. W. COLES

G. MILES

### *Abersychan:*

W. C. CHIVERS

D. T. GULLICK

W. HIGGS

### *Snatchwood:*

C. H. NEWMAN

E. H. PARKER

R. K. TELFER

### *Wainfelin:*

Mrs. E. M. HILL

H. J. ROSSER

G. R. TRIM, J.P.

### *Pontypool:*

J. H. EVANS

W. G. HILLIER

Mrs. F. M. PROSSER

Mrs. M. STRICKLAND

### *Pontymoile:*

W. L. JACKSON, M.M., B.E.M.

Mrs. M. L. LEE, J.P.

### *Griffithstown:*

C. J. R. IRVING

R. E. MOORE

### *Sebastopol:*

H. BULLIMORE

J. L. WHITTINGTON

### *New Inn:*

A. C. JONES

J. R. KILMISTER

Council Meeting—Last Tuesday in the month at 6 p.m.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Public Health Committee is a major one comprising all members of the Council.

Chairman: Councillor W. G. HILLIER

Public Health Committee Meeting:  
Tuesday following the first Monday in each month.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health .. F. J. HALLINAN, M.B.E. (Mil.),  
M.B., B.CH., B.A.O. (N.U.I.),  
D.P.H. (Wales).

*Official Address:* Library Buildings, Hanbury Rd., Pontypool.

*Telephone:* Pontypool 700 (Ext. 40).

Senior Public Health Inspector.. J. M. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

*Official Address:* Library Buildings, Hanbury Rd., Pontypool.

*Telephone:* Pontypool 700 (Ext. 41).

District Public Health Inspector B. GILFORD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.,  
M.R.I.P.H. & H.

District Public Health Inspector J. M. JONES, Cert. R.S.I.

District Public Health Inspector K. H. D. WILKINS, A.R.S.I.,  
M.R.I.P.H. & H.

Clerk of the Department .. Mrs. E. B. DAVIES

All the Public Health Inspectors are qualified Inspectors  
of Meat and other foods.

The Senior Public Health Inspector possesses the  
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

## OTHER COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Clerk of the Council .. .. H. COOK (Solicitor)

Deputy Clerk .. .. A. N. HAYMOND, ESQ.

Treasurer and Accountant .. .. T. R. JAMES, ESQ.

Engineer and Surveyor .. .. W. BROWN, A.M.I.MUN.E.,  
A.M.I.C.E.

Deputy Engineer and Surveyor .. F. NEWTON, A.M.I.MUN.E.,  
A.M.I.C.E.

Architect .. .. C. DAWKES, L.R.I.B.A.

Parks Superintendent .. .. W. R. DADGE, F.INST.P.A.,  
M.INST.B.C.A.

Housing Manager .. .. J. H. WALKER, F.INST.HSG.,  
M.R.S.H.

Public Librarian .. .. M. J. DAVIES, ESQ.

**ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**for the**  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF PONTYPOOL**  
**for the year ending 31st December, 1958**

*To the Chairman and Members of  
Pontypool Urban District Council.*

**MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I have pleasure in submitting for your attention my Annual Public Health Report for the year 1958 relating to matters of public health in your district.

This report has been compiled as required by the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951, and as laid down in circular 22/58 (Wales) dated 9th December, 1958, by the Welsh Board of Health.

**General Comment**

The year under review did not present any problems from an infectious disease aspect even though there was a moderate outbreak of measles. The district was free from the more serious conditions such as poliomyelitis and the enteric group of infections. Pulmonary tuberculosis notifications did show a slight increase over the previous year but no death was assigned to this cause.

During the year four sites within the district were selected and four rainwater deposit gauges set up for measuring the quantities of solids deposited in rainwater in addition to three stations for the measurement of sulphur dioxide present in the atmosphere. The results available so far are insufficient to draw firm conclusions on local atmospheric pollution.

The question of radioactivity in rainwater and drinking water was considered during the year under review and a few samples of each were submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that in both cases the amounts were negligible and due to the normal background activity of the atmosphere. The rainwater showed a little more activity than the drinking water.

During the year a number of sewers draining into water-courses were connected up to the trunk sewer or its subsidiaries, but there is still an amount of existing river pollution to be overcome.

Slum clearance continued during the year and a total of 69 individual unfit houses were officially represented to the Council, and of these 46 had been made the subject of a demolition or closing order by the end of the year. In addition, some 70 houses in three proposed clearance areas had been inspected but the preparation of the necessary maps could not be undertaken during the year.



## Physical Features

The Pontypool Urban District is situated on the eastern outcrop of the South Wales coalfields and occupies an area of 15,907 acres. The mining areas in the district, which comprise open-cast and deep coal mining, are away from the centres of population.

The altitude varies from 1,789 feet above sea level at Mynydd Varteg Fawr in the Abersychan Parish to 178.7 feet above sea level at the Sor, Cwmbwrrwch, in the Panteg Parish. The altitude at the Town Hall is 431 feet above sea level. The populated portion of the Urban District is mainly contained in a narrow valley.

## General Statistics and Social Conditions

Census population 1921 – 44,831.

Census population 1931 – 43,910 (22,723 males and 21,187 females).

Census population 1951 = 42,703 (21,242 males and 21,461 females).

Estimated population mid-1958 – 40,290.

The yearly estimates of the population have shown a steady downward trend over recent years.

1950	–	42,850	These estimates show a drop of 2,560 in the population between 1950 and 1958.
1951	–	42,460	
1952	–	42,420	
1953	–	42,320	
1954	–	42,030	
1955	–	41,660	
1956	–	41,280	
1957	–	40,610	
1958	–	40,290	

The main heavy industries in the district include coal mining, the manufacture of steel sheets, railway yards, by-product plant and glass making. The main light industries include the manufacture of nylon yarn and the making of soft toys.

An adequate rail and road transport system serves the town.

## Estimated population (mid-1958) of adjacent Urban Districts and Municipal Boroughs

Abergavenny	M.B.	9,020	Abercarn	..	U.D.	18,620	
Abertillery	..	U.D.	26,520	Bedwellty	..	U.D.	28,080
Blaenavon	..	U.D.	9,140	Cwmbran	..	U.D.	19,740
Ebbw Vale	..	U.D.	28,320	Monmouth	..	M.B.	5,690
			Tredeggar	..	U.D.	20,180	



## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

**TABLE I**      Showing the yearly number of live births, estimated mid-year population and birth rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1951.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Number of live births	623	593	571	563	628	683	699	697
Estimated mid-year population	40,290	40,610	41,280	41,660	42,030	42,320	42,420	42,460
Birth rate per 1,000 population	15.5	14.6	13.8	13.5	14.8	16.1	16.5	16.4

The number of live births assigned to this district for 1958 amounted to 623 (315 males and 308 females), being an increase of 30 over the previous year. Of the total of 623 births (315 males and 308 females) there were 18 illegitimate births (11 males and 7 females), which was an increase of one over the previous year, when the live births numbered 30 less.

The natural increase for the district for the year (excess of births over deaths) was 162 as compared with 118 in 1957, 28 in 1956, 53 in 1955, 148 in 1954 and 217 in 1953.

The number of stillbirths assigned to this district for the year totalled 17 (7 males and 10 females) as compared with the previous year when the number was exactly the same in number and sex distribution. These stillbirths were all legitimate. The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population for the year was 0.42 as compared with the County rate of 0.49.

Once again there was no death assigned to pregnancy, child-birth or abortion for this district during the year while the County maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) for the year was 0.35.

A comparison of the local birth rate of 15.5 may be made with the national rate of 16.4 for the year if the local rate is first multiplied by 1.04, which is the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General.

**TABLE II** Showing the births registered in and allocated to this district for 1958 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable births.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly Births
January .. ..	23	17	40	105
February .. ..	13	16	29	
March .. ..	19	17	36	
April .. ..	18	21	39	98
May .. ..	14	17	31	
June .. ..	13	15	28	
July .. ..	21	18	39	118
August . . .	27	22	49	
September .. ..	19	11	30	
October .. ..	13	24	37	89
November .. ..	14	10	24	
December .. ..	10	18	28	
TOTALS .. ..	204	206	410	410
Inward transferable births .. ..	111	102	213	
GRAND TOTALS for the year 1958	315	308	623	

**Comparative Birth Rates — 1958**

Pontypool Urban District .. ..	15.5
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	17.0
England and Wales .. ..	16.4

**TABLE III** Showing the yearly number of deaths, estimated mid-year population, and the death rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1951.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Number of deaths	461	475	543	510	480	466	507	568
Estimated mid-year population	40,290	40,610	41,280	41,660	42,030	42,320	42,420	42,460
Death-rate per 1,000 population	11.4	11.7	13.2	12.2	11.4	11.0	12.0	13.4

There were 461 deaths (256 males and 205 females) allocated to this district for the year which shows a decrease of 14 over 1957 and a death rate per 1,000 population of 11.4 as compared with the national rate of 11.7.

Table V shows these deaths allocated to the various causes and according to sex.

There was no death assigned to any form of tuberculosis during the year. One death was assigned to measles.

All forms of cancer claimed 86 deaths (50 males and 36 females) and accounted for 18.7% of the total for the year. Cancer of the lung and bronchus claimed 22 deaths (21 males and 1 female), or 4.8% of the total deaths. The figures for cancer of the lung and bronchus continue to increase each year.

The diseases of the heart and blood vessels claimed 231 deaths (115 males and 116 females) and accounted for 50.1% of the total deaths.

There were no deaths assigned to maternal causes during the year.

Motor vehicle accidents claimed 6 deaths (5 males and 1 female), while all other accidents claimed 5 deaths (2 males and 3 females).

There were 7 deaths (3 males and 4 females) assigned to suicide.

Diseases of the respiratory system (pneumonia, bronchitis, etc.) claimed 61 deaths (46 males and 15 females) or 13.2% of the total deaths.

The local death rate of 11.4 is comparable with the national rate if multiplied by the comparability factor which is 1.12.

**TABLE IV** Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1958 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence together with inward transferable deaths.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly deaths
January .. ..	26	21	47	113
February .. ..	13	15	28	
March .. ..	18	20	38	
April .. ..	25	17	42	90
May .. ..	15	12	27	
June .. ..	11	10	21	
July .. ..	14	8	22	71
August .. ..	13	12	25	
September ..	15	9	24	
October .. ..	15	13	28	103
November .. ..	19	10	29	
December .. ..	25	21	46	
TOTALS .. ..	209	168	377	377
Inward transferable deaths .. ..	47	37	84	
GRAND TOTAL for the year 1958	256	205	461	

**Comparative Death Rates — 1958**

Pontypool Urban District .. ..	11.4
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	11.7
England and Wales .. ..	11.7

**TABLE V** Showing the deaths from all causes, infant deaths, births and stillbirths allocated to this district for 1958.

Causes of death				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	1	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	2	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	12	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	21	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	—	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	—	8
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	13	15
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	4	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	25	46
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	52	26
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	30	32
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	5	9
22.	Influenza	..	..	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	8	5
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	30	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	8	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	2	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	5	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	18	21
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	5	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	2	3
35.	Suicide	..	..	3	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES				256	205
Deaths in infants under 1 year of age :—					
	Legitimate	..	..	9	6
	Illegitimate	..	..	1	—
	Total	..	..	10	6
Total births				315	308
	Legitimate	..	..	304	301
	Illegitimate	..	..	11	7
Still births—Total				7	10
	Legitimate	..	..	7	10
	Illegitimate	..	..	—	—

Estimated population - mid 1958 = 40,290  
(for calculation of birth and death rates).

Comparability factors : Births                      Deaths

1.04

1.12

**TABLE VI** Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1958 in quinquennial age groups and by sex.

Age last birthday	Males	Females	Total
0-4 ..	11	7	18
5-9 ..	3	—	3
10-14 ..	1	—	1
15-19 ..	—	—	—
20-24 ..	2	1	3
25-29 ..	—	—	—
30-34 ..	—	2	2
35-39 ..	5	3	8
40-44 ..	6	4	10
45-49 ..	8	6	14
50-54 ..	12	11	23
55-59 ..	25	8	33
60-64 ..	28	18	46
65-69 ..	32	20	52
70-74 ..	36	30	66
75-79 ..	32	34	66
80-84 ..	37	37	74
85-89 ..	15	16	31
90-94 ..	2	7	9
95 and over ..	1	1	2
All ages ..	256	205	461

The above table shows that 300 persons (155 males and 145 females) had attained the age of 65 years at death, or 65.1% of the total of 461 deaths.

The age of 75 years at death was attained by 182 persons (87 males and 95 females), or 39.5% of the total of 461 deaths.

Those attaining the age of 80 years at death numbered 116 (55 males and 61 females), or 25.2% of the total of 461 deaths.



## INFANT MORTALITY

**TABLE VII** Showing the yearly number of infant deaths, live births, etc., for this district since 1951.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year .. ..	16	21	15	20	31	23	19	30
Number of live births .. ..	623	593	571	563	628	683	699	697
Infant mortality rate .. ..	25·7	35·4	26·3	35·5	49·3	33·7	27·2	43·0

There were 16 infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under 1 year of age) assigned to this district for the year, which is a decrease of 5 in number over the previous year. These 16 deaths comprised 10 males and 6 females, which were all legitimate births with the exception of one male.

The distribution of these infant deaths to the various causes will be seen in Table VIII when it will be noted that 9 of the deaths occurred in infants under 4 weeks of age and 7 between the age of one month and one year. The number of deaths assigned to prematurity for the year is much lower than the figure obtaining for previous years.

The district's infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for the year is 25·7 as compared with the Monmouthshire Administrative County rate of 25·8 for the same period and a rate for England and Wales of 22·5 (provisional).



**TABLE VIII** Showing the infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under one year of age) assigned to this district for 1958, by cause and in age groups.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity .. .. .	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis .. .. .	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Meningitis .. .. .	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Broncho pneumonia .. .. .	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	4
Ruptured Meningocele .. .. .	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease .. .. .	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Apical pneumonia .. .. .	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho pneumonia and measles .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
<b>ALL CAUSES .. .. .</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>16</b>

The above infant deaths included 10 males and 6 females, and of these 13 (8 males and 5 females) died in hospitals and 3 (2 males and 1 female) died at home.

Pneumonia by itself or associated with other conditions caused the greatest number of infant deaths.

**TABLE IX** Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Pontypool Urban District since 1950.

Year	England and Wales	Monmouthshire	Pontypool U.D.
1950	29.6	39.8	43.1
1951	29.7	43.1	43.0
1952	27.6	33.9	27.2
1953	26.8	32.6	33.7
1954	25.4	39.7	49.3
1955	24.9	33.9	35.5
1956	23.7	29.0	26.3
1957	23.1	31.0	35.4
1958	22.5	25.8	25.7

**TABLE X** Showing the number of inquests during 1958 on persons belonging to this district and the causes of the deaths.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	TOTAL
Accidental burns in the home.. ..	—	1	1
Coronary thrombosis .. ..	1	—	1
Myocardial ischaemia accelerated by exposure .. ..	—	1	1
Pneumoconiosis.. ..	4	—	4
Suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning .. ..	2	4	6
Suicide by drowning .. ..	1	—	1
Road accident—pedestrian .. ..	1	1	2
Road accident (motor cyclist).. ..	3	—	3
Road accident (passenger) .. ..	1	—	1
Colliery accident .. ..	1	—	1
Post-operation (cancer of bladder) ..	1	—	1
Post-operation (cancer of rectum) ..	1	—	1
Accidental drowning .. ..	1	—	1
Fractured femur in home .. ..	—	1	1
Leukaemia .. ..	1	—	1
TOTAL .. ..	18	8	26

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Table XII shows the number of notifications of notifiable diseases received from medical practitioners during the year analysed in age and sex groups and corrected for diagnosis.

### DIPHTHERIA

No notification of diphtheria has been received for this district for the sixth consecutive year, which is continued evidence of the effectiveness of immunisation. However, parents must be exhorted to continue to have their children protected against this disease by immunisation without fail if this very satisfactory state of affairs is to be maintained.

**TABLE XI** Showing the number of immunisations against diphtheria done in the Council's District during 1957.

	Age at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B)			
	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Total
A. No. of children who completed a full course of primary immuni- sation in the Council's District during the year 1958 ..	168	141	12	321
B. No. of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection subsequent to primary immuni- sation in the year ended 31.12.'58 ..	—	8	20	28

The following figures indicate the position nationally of diphtheria deaths and notifications.

YEAR	DEATHS		NOTIFICATIONS	
	England	Wales	England	Wales
1948	156	7	3,575	190
1949	84	1	1,890	102
1950	49	Nil	962	62
1951	33	1	664	53
1952	32	3	376	39
1953	23	Nil	266	17
1954	9	Nil	176	7
1955	13	Nil	155	1
1956	8	Nil	53	2
1957	6	Nil	37	1

**TABLE XII** Showing the notifiable diseases notified in this district during 1958, analysed in age and sex groups and giving the admissions to hospital. (Corrected for Diagnosis). (Tuberculosis excluded)

DISEASE	Under 1 year		1-2 years		2-3 years		3-4 years		4-5 years		5-10 years		10-15 years		15-25 years		25-35 years		35-45 years		45-65 years		65 yrs and upward		ALL AGES			Cases Admitted to Hospital		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.			
Diphtheria ..	10	4	28	28	33	35	32	35	41	44	162	155	5	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	311	309	620	1		
Measles ..	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	4	13	12	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	20	36	1		
Scarlet fever ..	2	2	1	3	6	5	4	5	5	4	15	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	29	63	1		
Whooping cough ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Ac. primary and Influenzal pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Typhoid ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis :	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paralytic ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-paralytic ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	12	8	29	31	40	41	39	40	46	51	190	177	5	8	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	363	362	725	1	1

## **MEASLES**

There were 620 (311 males and 309 females) notifications of measles during the year as compared with 187 (89 males and 98 females) during 1957.

There was one death assigned to this cause.

## **SCARLET FEVER**

There were 36 (16 males and 20 females) notifications of this disease received during the year as compared with 39 (20 males and 19 females) notifications for 1957.

No death was assigned to this cause.

## **WHOOPING COUGH**

There were 63 (34 males and 29 females) notifications of this disease during the year as compared with 31 (12 males and 19 females) notifications for 1957.

No death was assigned to this cause.

## **ACUTE PRIMARY AND INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA**

There were 4 (1 male and 3 females) notifications of these diseases received during the year as compared with 10 (4 males and 6 females) for the previous year.

## **FOOD POISONING**

There was one notification of this disease received during the year.

One death was assigned to this condition.

## **OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM**

One notification was received for this condition.

## **OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**

No notifications were received in respect of diphtheria, puerperal pyrexia, erysipelas, meningococcal infection, typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, acute encephalitis, poliomyelitis and smallpox.

**TABLE XIII** Showing the number of vaccinations against small-pox carried out in the district during 1958.

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15 + yrs.	Total
No. vaccinated ..	151	67	12	13	55	298
No. re-vaccinated ..	—	—	3	2	34	39
Total ..	151	67	15	15	89	337

**TABLE XIV** Showing the number of immunisations against whooping cough carried out in the district during the year ended 31.12.58.

	Age at date of final injection		
	0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Total
Number of children who have completed a primary course (normally three injections) of whooping cough vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's district during the year ended 31.12.58 .. ..	329	—	329

**TABLE XV** Showing the number of cases of notifiable diseases notified yearly since 1946 (corrected for diagnosis). Tuberculosis excluded.

DISEASE	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Diphtheria ..	—	187	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	3	4
Measles ..	620	39	338	509	4	735	110	1,351	18	115	275	214	3
Scarlet Fever ..	36	31	32	17	7	10	61	56	59	88	38	32	29
Whooping Cough ..	63	—	49	19	225	50	184	55	180	36	39	24	59
Puerperal pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	3	3	2	—	3
Ac. primary and influenzal pneumonia ..	4	10	1	3	—	6	5	15	11	3	3	6	3
Erysipelas ..	—	—	1	1	—	4	2	3	3	5	3	1	3
Food poisoning ..	1	—	1	—	—	3	3	1	8	5	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	2
Typhoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Paratyphoid ..	—	2	1	—	2	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—
Acute Encephalitis ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis:	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Paralytic ..	—	3	—	1	—	—	8	—	2	1	—	3	2
(b) Non-paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



## TUBERCULOSIS

The Chest Clinic located at the Park Buildings, Pontypool, provides facilities for the district which are considered to be adequate.

The Clinic is open on two whole days each week on Tuesday and Thursday.

The notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis for the district for the year number 18 (9 males and 9 females), which is an increase of 5 (1 male and 4 females) over the previous year. There were 4 notifications (2 males and 2 females) of non-pulmonary tuberculosis received during the year, which is an increase of 3 over the previous year.

There were no deaths assigned to tuberculosis during the year.

The emergency scheme operated by the Council for the expeditious rehousing of needy cases of tuberculosis continued to function during the year and 5 cases were rehoused.

Detailed environmental enquiries continue to be carried out following each notification by the Medical Officer of Health and copies of these reports are furnished to the County Medical Officer and the Chest Physician.

A very cordial liaison continues to be maintained between the Medical Officer of Health and local Chest Clinic in all matters relating to tuberculosis in the area.

The Mass Radiography Service visited three large industrial concerns in the district during the year and a total of 4,400 (3,259 males and 1,141 females) persons were x-rayed.

I again draw attention to the fact that there is a static mass radiography unit located at Wrenford Hall, Commercial Street, Newport, which operates at the following times for the general public.

Monday	..	..	10—12 a.m. and 2—4 p.m.
Tuesday	..	..	10—12 a.m. and 2—4 p.m. also 5—7 p.m.
Thursday	..	..	10—12 a.m. and 2—4 p.m.
Friday	..	..	10—12 a.m. and 2—4 p.m.

**TABLE XVI** Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1958, analysed in age and sex groups and by type of disease.  
(Corrected for diagnosis.)

Age groups in yrs.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
35—44	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	9	9	2	2	—	—	—	—

The above cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were classified by the Chest Physician as follows:—

Males:—RA<sub>2</sub>, RA<sub>1</sub>, RA<sub>1</sub>, RB<sub>2</sub>, RA<sub>3</sub>.

Females:—RA<sub>3</sub>, RA<sub>2</sub>, RA<sub>2</sub>, RA<sub>2</sub>, RB<sub>2</sub>, RB<sub>3</sub>, RA<sub>1</sub>, RB<sub>2</sub>, RA<sub>1</sub>. No classification was received for 4 males (pulmonary).

Two of the above new cases had previously been on the register and had been removed as recovered.

There were no deaths amongst those notified above during the year.

**TABLE XVII** Showing the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the register at 31.12.58.

Males		Females		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
154	20	112	21	307

**TABLE XVIII** Showing the monthly notifications of tuberculosis for the year 1958.

Month of year	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
January .. ..	2	—	1	—	3
February .. ..	2	1	—	—	3
March .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
April .. ..	—	3	1	—	4
May .. ..	1	—	—	—	1
June .. ..	1	1	—	—	2
July .. ..	1	1	—	—	2
August .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
September .. ..	1	—	—	1	2
October .. ..	1	2	—	—	3
November .. ..	—	1	—	—	1
December .. ..	—	—	—	1	1
TOTAL .. ..	9	9	2	2	22

The following inward transfers to this district of persons previously notified in other districts took place during the year in addition to the above cases.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary
2	1	2

Two of the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in this district during the year were brought to light through mass radiography surveys in local factories.

**TABLE XIX** Showing the occupations at the time of notification of the new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1958.

Occupation	Males		Females		TOTAL
	Pulmon-ary	Non-Pulmon-ary	Pulmon-ary	Non-Pulmon-ary	
Labourer .. ..	2	—	—	—	2
Clerk .. ..	1	—	1	—	2
Railway Fireman ..	—	1	—	—	1
Housewife ..	—	—	2	2	4
Groundsman ..	1	—	—	—	1
School Child ..	1	1	—	—	2
Shop Assistant ..	—	—	2	—	2
Shopkeeper ..	1	—	—	—	1
Foundry Worker ..	1	—	—	—	1
Religious Order ..	—	—	1	—	1
Ex-Miner ..	1	—	—	—	1
Ex-Butcher ..	—	—	—	—	1
Pre-School ..	1	—	1	—	1
Shorthand Typist ..	—	—	2	—	2
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>

The death rates for tuberculosis for 1958 were:—  
(Rates for 1957 in parentheses)

- (a) Tuberculosis (all forms) — Nil per 1,000 pop. (0.05)
- (b) Pulmonary tuberculosis — Nil per 1,000 pop. (0.05)
- (c) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis — Nil per 1,000 pop. (Nil)

Tuberculosis death rates for England and Wales—1958.

The provisional death rates for England and Wales for respiratory tuberculosis for 1958 per million population was 89, about 6% less than in 1957.

During the same period the provisional rate per million population for cancer of the lung and bronchus was 439 (783 males and 119 females).

**TABLE XX** Showing the new notifications of all forms of tuberculosis as distributed to the various wards in this Urban District for 1958.

Wards	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Garndiffaith ..	3	—	—	—	3
Abersychan ..	1	2	—	1	4
Pontnewynydd ..	—	2	—	1	3
Wainfelin ..	1	1	2	—	4
Pontypool ..	—	2	—	—	2
Pontymoel ..	—	1	—	—	1
Griffithstown ..	1	1	—	—	2
New Inn ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sebastopol ..	3	—	—	—	3
ALL WARDS ..	9	9	2	2	22

**TABLE XXI** Showing the admissions to and discharges from institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis during 1958.

Institutions	Admissions		Discharges	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Sully Hospital .. ..	3	5	2	3
Cefn Mably ..	3	11	5	6
Glan Ely Hospital .. ..	—	1	2	—
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth .. ..	3	—	1	—
Chest Unit, Chepstow ..	4	—	4	—
St. Woolos Hospital ..	2	—	1	—
Pontypool & District Hospital	—	4	1	3
TOTAL .. ..	15	21	16	12

**TABLE XXII** Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1944. (Corrected for diagnosis)

Year	Yearly notifications of tuberculosis				Total yearly notifications of pulmonary & non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Yearly deaths from tuberculosis				Total of yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1944	27	29	3	8	67	14	9	2	1	26
1945	46	22	2	6	76	10	18	3	2	33
1946	19	13	11	3	46	12	8	2	2	24
1947	16	23	5	9	53	9	10	1	1	21
1948	21	22	4	10	57	16	5	3	1	25
1949	14	17	4	3	38	16	6	1	1	24
1950	19	17	1	4	41	6	2	1	1	10
1951	24	15	1	7	47	9	2	—	1	12
1952	25	13	5	2	45	5	4	3	1	13
1953	12	6	2	3	23	2	3	1	—	6
1954	13	10	—	3	26	4	1	—	—	5
1955	8	8	2	1	19	1	2	—	—	3
1956	8	7	1	—	16	1	4	2	—	7
1957	8	5	—	1	14	—	2	—	—	2
1958	9	9	2	2	22	—	—	—	—	—

**TABLE XXIII** Showing the notification rates and death rates for tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year population for this district since 1938.

Year	Notification rates per 1,000 population		Death rates per 1,000 population	
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1938	1.09	.42	.52	.07
1939	1.15	.49	.42	.07
1940	.84	.48	.58	.12
1941	1.13	.41	.74	.05
1942	.67	.36	.41	.19
1943	.99	.22	.49	.10
1944	1.34	.26	.55	.07
1945	1.88	.19	.67	.12
1946	.76	.33	.48	.10
1947	.93	.33	.45	.05
1948	1.01	.33	.50	.09
1949	.73	.16	.56	.05
1950	.84	.12	.19	.04
1951	.92	.18	.26	.02
1952	.90	.17	.21	.09
1953	.42	.12	.12	.02
1954	.55	.07	.12	NIL
1955	.38	.07	.06	NIL
1956	.36	.02	.12	.04
1957	.32	.03	.05	NIL
1958	.45	.10	NIL	NIL



# **MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEYS IN PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT – 1958**

Mass radiography surveys at factory establishments in the district continued during the year and the details, as supplied by the Mass Radiography Service, are as follows:

	Males	Females	Total	Misc. Contr'tors
(A) Messrs. British Nylon Spinners, Ltd.				
Total number examined ..	2,892	866	3,758	64
Total found to be abnormal cases	133	6	139	1
(i) Referred to Chest Physician as cases requiring further investigation.. ..	4	1	5	—
(ii) Other abnormalities of the chest .. .. .	129	5	134	1
TOTAL ..			3,822	

## (B) Messrs. H. G. Stone & Co. Ltd.

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined .. ..	26	210	236
Total found to be abnormal cases	—	4	4
(i) Referred to Chest Physician as cases requiring further investigation	—	—	—
(ii) Other abnormalities of the chest..	—	4	4
TOTAL ..			236

## (C) Messrs. Pilkington Bros. (S. Wales) Ltd.

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined .. ..	277	65	342
Total number found to be abnormal cases .. .. .	6	1	7
(i) Referred to Chest Physician as cases requiring further investigation .. .. .	1	—	1
(ii) Other abnormalities of the chest	5	1	6
TOTAL ..			342

Grand total examined — 4,400 (3,259 males and 1,141 females).

## HOUSING

### Return for the year ending 31/12/'58

(a)	Number of dwelling houses demolished (old clearance areas) .. .. .	13
(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished (not in clearance areas) as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957.. ..	13
(c)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .. .. .	7
(d)	Unfit houses closed under Sections 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	28
(e)	HOUSING REPAIRS:	
(i)	Houses in which defects were remedied after informal notice .. .. .	23
(ii)	Houses in which defects were remedied after formal notice under Public Health Acts.. ..	94
(iii)	Houses in which defects were remedied after formal notice under the Housing Act, 1957 ..	2

### General Housing Details

1.	Number of post-war council houses completed by 31/12/'58 .. .. .	2,113
2.	Number of council houses completed during 1958 ..	62
3.	Number of houses completed during 1958 by private enterprise .. .. .	19
4.	Number of council houses under construction at 31/12/'58 .. .. .	102
5.	Number of houses under construction by private enterprise at 31/12/'58.. .. .	22
6.	Number of houses owned by the Local Authority at 31/12/'58 300 temporary : 3,295 permanent ..	3,595
7.	Number of individual unfit houses represented to the Council by the Medical Officer of Health during 1958	69

8.	Number of closing or demolition orders (as appropriate) made on these 69 representations by 31/12/'58 ..	49
9.	Number of houses inspected during the year and contained in proposed clearance areas to be represented as soon as the necessary maps have been completed ..	76
10.	Number of applications received for certificates of disrepair under the Rents Act, 1957, during 1958 ..	32
11.	Number of certificates of disrepair issued during 1958..	25
12.	Number of condemned properties in the district still occupied at 31/12/'58 .. .. .	104

### **Housing Act, 1949**

#### **Improvement grants under above Act**

(a)	Number of improvement grants made during 1958 ..	26
(b)	Total number of improvement grants 1949-1958 inclusive	204
(c)	Amount of improvement grants during 1958 .. ..	£4,440
(d)	Total amount of improvement grants 1949-1958 inclusive .. .. .	£33,847

#### **Improvement loans under the above Act**

(a)	Number of improvement loans made during 1958 ..	3
(b)	Total number of improvement loans made during 1949-58 inclusive .. .. .	11
(c)	Amount of improvement loans made during 1958 ..	£547
(d)	Total amount of improvement loans made during 1949-58 inclusive .. .. .	£2,148

During the year ended 31/12/'58 the Pontypool Self-build Association was advanced the sum of £6,040 in respect of 14 houses under construction.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The following tables show the number and type of factories in the district and the inspections carried out during 1958 in connection with the above Acts. The conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

**TABLE XXIV** Showing the number of factories and the inspections thereof for 1958.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occu- piers prose- cuted
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	95	44	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	7	8	2	—
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>

**TABLE XXIV** Showing the defects found in factories and the action taken to remedy them during the year.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	5	5	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) .. ..	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## **PART VIII of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948**

### **OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)**

Eleven outworkers were engaged in the making of stuffed toys.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### National Assistance Act, 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the year for the compulsory removal of any persons for the purposes of securing necessary care and attention on their behalf.

The relevant section is quoted to indicate the type of person to which it would apply if he or she was not willing to enter a suitable premises for persons in need of care and attention on a voluntary basis.

“ 47 (1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect for the purposes of securing the necessary care and attention for persons who—

(a) are suffering from chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.”

It is worth noting that during the year two male persons to which the above section would have definitely applied were persuaded, after much effort extending over numerous visits, to enter Part III accommodation on a voluntary basis.

### Superannuation Act, 1937–1953

The Medical Officer of Health carried out 34 medical examinations of Council employees under the above act during the year. These examinations were carried out with much difficulty due to the unsuitable type of accommodation made available to this Officer.

### Staff and Accommodation

At the close of the year the Public Health Department moved to the offices over the Public Library which were previously occupied by the Clerk of the Council and his staff. This move represents an improvement for the Public Health Inspector's staff over the former very unsuitable and cramped office and should enhance the efficiency of the department by giving more opportunity for up-to-date filing and record-keeping systems.

One of the District Inspectors, Mr. K. H. D. Wilkins, continued his part-time course on smoke abatement at Cardiff, during the year.

I once again express my appreciation for the help and fullest co-operation given to me during the year by all members of the Public Health Department Staff and other Departments of the Authority. I would especially wish to thank Mr. J. M. Williams for



his co-operation and help during the year and who is proving himself a most energetic and enterprising Senior Public Health Inspector. Also, I wish to thank Mr. D. Thomas, the student inspector in the department, who has been most helpful in connection with house inspections in proposed clearance areas.

## **PUBLIC ANALYST'S REPORT**

I am indebted to Dr. G. V. James, M.B.E., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst to the Council, for the following report on the work carried out by him on behalf of this Authority during the year ended 31/12/'58.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1958. The work performed is described under the same section headings used in my previous report for the sake of uniformity.

### **Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

During the year a total of 142 samples were examined of which 104 were informal trial samples, the balance of 38 being formal samples.

#### **Adulterated Samples**

Only one adulterated sample was received, this being 0.7%, which figure compares very favourably with other parts of the country.

#### **Milk**

Twelve samples of milk were taken in course of delivery to the public and none were adulterated. The average composition was satisfactory, the actual being:—

Fat % 3.69, Solids not fat % 8.70, Total Solids % 12.39.

These figures are much improved over those of 1957, which showed the effect of watered milks, and these results may be considered as very satisfactory.

The remaining 130 samples comprised a wide variety of foods and medical preparations and for the sake of brevity they have been classified as follows:—

#### **Dairy Products including Ice Creams and Ice Lollies**

23 samples of butter, cream, and ice cream were all satisfactory.

#### **Meat and Fish Products and Pastes**

23 samples of meat and fish products and pastes were examined and 22 were genuine and free from metallic contamination in the case of canned goods. One sample of meat pie was considered to be adulterated by the presence of an insect below the crust.



### **Wines, Spirits and Beverage Preparations**

10 samples of cyder, fruit squashes, cocoa and coffee preparations were received and were found to be satisfactory.

### **Cereal and Farinaceous Products**

9 samples of confectionery, custard powders and similar products were submitted and all were satisfactory.

### **Jam, Table Jellies and Dried Fruits**

12 samples of this class of product were examined and all conformed with the various standards of purity etc., and absence of insect infestation.

### **Spices, Sauces and Vinegar**

4 samples of spices, condiments, sauces and vinegars were received during the year and all were of good quality.

### **Sweets**

12 samples of sweets were examined and found to be fit for human consumption.

### **Drugs**

6 samples of drugs were submitted and all conformed with the declarations on the label or with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia.

### **Miscellaneous**

31 samples of unclassified foods including oranges, brazil nuts, flavouring essences, etc., were received and these were all genuine.

### **Water Examinations**

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are regularly made on the sources of water supplied to the Urban District and a satisfactory standard of purity is maintained. During the year almost 300 samples were examined from all sources in the District, being submitted by both the Urban District and by the Water Undertaking.

### **Sewage Disposal**

From time to time samples of effluent are received from the Ponthir treatment plant of the Eastern Joint (Mon.) Sewerage Board and the results are good, the recommended standard of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal being maintained.

### **Radioactivity**

At the end of the year a few samples of drinking water and rain water have been examined for the presence of radioactivity. The results show that rainwater contains a little more activity than does drinking water, but in both cases the results are negligible and due to the normal background activity of the atmosphere.

## Atmospheric Pollution

During the year, four stations have been selected in the District to set up equipment for measuring the quantities of solids deposited in the rain and also three stations for measurement of sulphur dioxide present in the atmosphere. At present there are insufficient results to tabulate the figures but this will be done in the next annual report.

I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief Public Health Officer and their staffs for much valuable co-operation throughout the year.

## Water Supplies

I am indebted to H. D. Linton, Esq., A.M. INST. W.E., A.M. INST. C.E., Water Engineer to the Pontypool and District Water Company, who are the Statutory Water Undertakers for this Urban District, for the following report for 1958.

The total quantity of water supplied during 1958 was 777,129,000 gallons equal to an average daily quantity of 2,129,000 gallons. This exceeded the 1957 quantity by 43,397,000 gallons and is the greatest amount yet distributed by the Water Company.

The rainfall during the year was average and no difficulty was experienced in providing the supply.

All the Company's filtration and treatment stations were in use during the year and although they were fully extended no difficulty was experienced in maintaining a high quality of distributed water. The average chlorine dose was 1.0 p.p.m.

The new British Springs source was brought into use during February and although construction has been continuing since then the source has provided an excellent supply of pure water.

240 bacteriological samples were analysed by the Public Analyst, Dr. G. V. James, M.B.E., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., and 984 bacteriological samples and 32 chemical samples were analysed by the Company's own staff Chemist. In addition 2,500 routine chlorine residual and pH tests were made by the Company's Chemist throughout the district. In all 3,756 samples were dealt with which is an average of more than one sample per day per source of water. Regular daily Chlorine residual tests were also taken by the Operatives at all the treatment stations.

Water softening of the Glyn Pits supply was carried out intermittently during 7 months of the year, during which time approximately 30 million gallons were dealt with. No difficulty was experienced in reducing the hardness of this source.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

I am indebted to J. M. Williams, Esq., M.A.P.H.I., Senior Public Health Inspector to the Pontypool Urban District Council for the following report for 1958:

### Water Supply

As in the past, the main supply continued to be provided by the Pontypool Water Undertaking from various springs, wells, pits and upland surface water throughout the District. All water is chlorinated and filtered and of the 85 routine samples taken, only one proved unsatisfactory. This is an excellent record, especially considering the variation in the sources of supply. The table below shows that over the years 1954-58 of some 433 samples taken 4 were unsatisfactory.

Some samples taken from wells and other sources unfortunately were not so good and "boiling" notices were served on the occupiers of all houses concerned. These results must serve to impress upon the Council the need for vigorous and progressive action towards providing the outlying districts with piped water supplies.

Year	Satisfactory for a Chlorinated Supply	Unsatisfactory for a Chlorinated Supply	Total Number of Samples
1949	19	13	32
1950	50	10	60
1951	91	10	101
1952	70	7	77
1953	81	3	84
1954	85	—	85
1955	81	1	82
1956	89	1	90
1957	85	1	86
1958	89	1	90

### Sewage Disposal

The area, in the main, continues to be served by the trunk and subsidiary sewer, discharging at the Sewage Disposal Works at Ponthir. During the year the extensive works of reorganizing the plant to the "recirculated effluent" method of treatment has been completed with considerable success. The works are now dealing with 3-4 million gallons of effluent per day.

Unfortunately, the progress at the other end of the system has not been so successful. During the year, a report was submitted to the Council expressing concern at the amount of crude sewage still discharging from sewers into the rivers and streams of the area and although some concern was expressed at the time, no further action has been forthcoming.

A number of private house and factory drains were connected to the sewer after the service of notices.

During the year a survey was carried out covering the whole Urban Area to ascertain the extent of cesspool and septic tank drainage and a detailed report presented to the Public Health Committee. It was discovered that there are some 100 or more premises with such drainage, varying considerably in construction and condition.

A further report was submitted giving details of distribution of these fittings and it was finally resolved that the Surveyor submit a report to the Public Health Committee on the practicability and equipment needed if the Council were to accept liability for the cleansing of the cesspools.

### **Swimming Baths**

During the summer the two swimming baths at Pontnewynydd and Griffithstown were in operation.

The water in both baths was filtered and chlorinated and was regularly sampled for Bacteriological Analysis and Chlorine contact. The results were satisfactory but the Engineer and Surveyor did experience some difficulty with the filtering plant at the Griffithstown bath.

### **Atmospheric Pollution**

Throughout the year the figures of deposited matter as obtained by Messrs. Pilkingtons (South Wales) Ltd., have continued to be available to the Council. In the second half of the year, the Public Health Department installed four rainwater deposit gauges and three lead peroxide candles, sited at New Inn, Griffithstown, Pontypool and Pontnewynydd. The results to the end of the year were very erratic but it should be stressed that a true picture of local dust pollution can only be built up after several years of observations. The average of results were much as would be expected in an industrialised urban area and are in the order of 20 tons per square mile per month.



Observations have been taken on boiler house chimneys and locomotive engines and informal approach made to managements with the view to lessening the amount of smoke discharged. Although a national programme has been formulated by British Railways, no definite time can be given for the complete change over to diesel in this area.

I feel, however, that Council should be made aware that under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 and the Alkali Works Regulations, etc., Act, 1906, certain processes are scheduled and outside the direct control of the Local Authority. Any smoke discharged therefore, must be dealt with by the Alkali Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The scheduled industries in this area are as follows:—

<i>Name and Address of Firm</i>	<i>Work or Processes Registered</i>
1. Messrs. Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd., (trading as Partridge Jones & John Paton Ltd.) Pontnewynydd Sheet and Galvanising Works, Pontnewynydd, Near Pontypool, Mon.	Producer Gas.
2. Little Mill Brick Company Ltd., Little Mill, Near Pontypool, Mon.	Ceramic (Heavy clay—intermittent Kilns).
3. Messrs. Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd., Panteg Works, Griffithstown, Pontypool.	Producer Gas, Iron & Steel (open Hearth furnaces, Electric Arc furnace, Deseaming Plant.)
4. Wales Gas Board, Gasworks, New Road, Griffithstown, Pontypool, Mon.	Gas and Coke.
5. Messrs. Pilkington Brothers (South Wales) Ltd., Pontypool Works, Pontypool, Mon.	Producer Gas.

Up to the end of the period under review the Council have not made any byelaws under Section 24 of the Act and have not considered the creation of any Smoke Controlled Areas in the Urban District.

### Public Cleansing

This service, under the control of the Surveyor, continues to be based on kerbside twice weekly collections of refuse and apart from holiday periods was once again maintained throughout the year. The refuse is tipped at the Ruffetts, Pontnewynydd and at Varteg. Some combustible material is disposed of at the Albion Road incinerator, Pontypool.

During the year two new vehicles were purchased for this work and a report from the Surveyor on the Public Cleansing Services is pending.

No further progress has been made towards the implementation of the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936. I am of the opinion that no refuse collection service can be satisfactory until every dwelling house has a proper metal bin provided with two handles and tight fitting lid. The use of the cardboard box and the dilapidated bucket and bath for the storage of refuse are still the rule in the area and I can only once again impress upon the Council to consider the urgency of this matter, not only from a hygienic and public health point of view but also from the view-point of men engaged in collection of the refuse. It is no mean task to raise a handleless bath full of wet ashes to shoulder height in order to empty it into a collection vehicle.

### **Inspection of Food Premises, Food Inspection, Etc.**

Although the accent has once again been on housing work, this aspect of the duties of the Department has been carried on with as much vigour as possible. The inspections of premises have been carried out over the whole range of retail shops, industrial canteens, etc., and while, in fairness to some, the hygienic standards of many premises have been and are being improved, much remains to be done by inspection, education and instruction of food handlers and the like, towards the improvement of their premises. At last, business men are beginning to realise that while, initially " hygiene " costs them money, it makes in the long run for good business practice.

Section 114 of the Monmouthshire County Council Act, 1956 which requires the registration of Food Hawkers by the Local Authority has not yet been administrated by the Public Health Department. It is hoped to commence during 1959, and since it will involve many of the Stallholders in the market, a comprehensive report of these premises will probably be submitted to the Public Health Committee.

The sampling programme for the year was satisfactory, and the following is a summary of samples taken:

### **Milk**

In the area during the year the Council issued the following licences under the Special Designation Regulations:

Pasteurizer's Licence .. .. .	1
Licence to use Designation " Pasteurized " .. .. .	20
Licence to use Designation " Sterilised " .. .. .	19
Licence to use Designation " Tuberculin Tested " .. .. .	8

Supplementary Licences for Special Designation .. ..	
Licences issued by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for Producer Retailers .. .. .	3

(a) SAMPLED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS:

Pasteurized Milk .. .. .	93
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurized) .. .. .	48
Sterilized Milk .. .. .	47
	<hr/>
TOTAL ..	188

All pasteurized samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test, but one failed the Phosphates Test. Immediate resampling proved satisfactory and although the plant and records were carefully scrutinised, no reason was found and the cause of the failure was not discovered.

All other samples were satisfactory.

(b) SAMPLED FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

12 Samples of milk were taken under the Sale of Milk Regulations, which requires a minimum of 3% Fat and 8.5% Solids not Fat. All proved satisfactory and give averages as follows:—

3.7% Fat : 8.70% Solids not Fat : 12.4% Total Solids.

### Ice Cream

Throughout the Urban Area, there are 94 premises registered for the sale, manufacture and storage of ice cream. Some 8 of these are manufacturer/retailers.

(a) SAMPLED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS:

53 samples were taken during the year and the results are the best yet obtained by the Public Health Department.

Year	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
1949	12	4	4	17	37
1950	34	17	7	8	66
1951	36	12	4	3	55
1952	24	13	—	4	41
1953	31	17	—	5	53
1954	28	5	—	2	35
1955	20	4	2	1	27
1956	15	4	1	1	21
1957	29	11	6	6	51
1958	49	3	1	—	53



(b) FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

18 samples of ice cream were taken for fat content and all were found to comply with the Standard of 5% of fat demanded by the "Food Standard (Ice Cream) Order 1953."

The averages of these samples was as follows:—

9.2% Fat : 0.8% Ash : 28.6% Sugar, milk, solids not Fat  
Total Solids% 38.6.

### Other Food and Drug Samples

Samples of various foods and drugs were purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst. As usual they were taken either because some special standard applied or because their labels made specific claims. With the limited number which are obtainable the sampling officer must of necessity be careful in his choice and during this year samples included such varied articles as oranges (tested for thiourea) vinegar and confectionery.

All samples proved satisfactory.

### Prosecutions

Three prosecutions took place during the year and were heard at one sitting at Pentonville Police Court, Newport. The cases were of three dirty milk bottles delivered to a local school and summonses were taken against the firm concerned under Regulation 26 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Pleas of Guilty were submitted by the firm concerned and the Magistrates fined them a total of £30.

A further complaint of a similar nature was reported to the Department at the end of the year and action is pending.

### Unsound Food

The following foods were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation and found to be unfit for human consumption.

			Cwt.	Lb.	Oz.
Meat (From Shops)	..	..	2	1	0
Tinned Meat	..	..	5	82	10
Fish	..	..	—	21	0
Tinned Fish	..	..	—	13	8
Tinned Fruit	..	..	3	15	9
Tinned Milk and Cream	..	..	—	73	14
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	..	..	3	42	5
Miscellaneous Groceries	..	..	—	58	8
TOTALS ..			15	84	6

This unsound food was disposed of in the Council's incinerator at Albion Road, Pontypool.

## MEAT

The two Private Slaughterhouses in the district continued in operation and the following is a summary from the records of meat inspected and amounts found unfit for human consumption during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep or Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed ..	818	7	45	7,486	2,655	11,011
Number Inspected ..	813	7	45	7,486	2,655	11,006
All Diseases except T.B. and Cyst. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whole Carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Part Carcase or Organ condemned ..	151	3	1	855	248	1,258
% affected .. ..	18.5	43	2.2	11.4	9.4	11.4
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole Carcases ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcase or Organ .. ..	24	—	—	—	16	40
% affected .. ..	3.07	—	—	—	0.6	0.36
CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY:						
Part Carcase or Organ .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases treated by Refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The figures represent 99.95 % inspection.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

During the year, 636 complaints were received at the Public Health Department, and the work of the Inspectorate may be summarized as follows:—

### Inspection of Food Premises, Food Inspection (Visits Paid):

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	10
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	35
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	18
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	9
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	25
Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	15
Food Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	10
Food and Drugs (Chemical and Bacteriological) Samples						435
Grocers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	91
Greengrocers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	14
Ice Cream Dealers' Premises		..	..	..	..	20
Ice Cream Manufacturers' Premises			..	..	..	32
Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	See Page	44
Mobile Shops (Hawkers)	..	..	..	..	..	8
Pasteurizing Plants	..	..	..	..	..	4
School Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	10
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	1,052
Staff Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	157

### Housing (Visits Paid):

Drainage of Houses	..	..	..	..	..	200
Environmental Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	41
Overcrowding Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	4
Sanitary Fittings	..	..	..	..	..	133
Structural Defects	..	..	..	..	..	275
Water Supply and Pipes	..	..	..	..	..	28
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	..	..	..	..	..	471
Re-Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	1,219

## General Sanitation (Visits Paid):

Accumulations .. .. .	62
Atmospheric Pollution Survey .. .. .	45
Caravans .. .. .	113
Drainage and Sewerage .. .. .	500
Dustbins .. .. .	—
Fair Grounds .. .. .	3
Keeping of Animals and Birds .. .. .	7
Piggeries .. .. .	12
Insect Pests .. .. .	54
Public House Urinals .. .. .	20
Public Conveniences .. .. .	23
Public Houses .. .. .	20
Refuse Tips .. .. .	8
Rodent and Vermin Infestation .. .. .	48
Smoke Complaints and Observations .. .. .	19
Unclean Premises .. .. .	17
Water Samples .. .. .	85
Well Water Samples .. .. .	17
Watercourses .. .. .	15
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .. .. .	104
Re-Inspections .. .. .	81
<b>Factories and Outworkers (Visits Paid) .. .. .</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Pet Animals Act Inspections .. .. .</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Shops Act Inspections .. .. .</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act (Samples) .. .. .</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>5,767</b>

## Rodent Control

During the year the Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Operatives made a total of 1,150 visits and revisits and the Operatives cleared 404 infestations of rats and mice.

No charge is made for treatments at Private Houses and Council/Owned properties, but Business premises are charged on a basis of time and material used.

## Disinfestation of Houses

The following number of premises were sprayed with liquid and powder insecticide for the destruction of vermin and insect pests

3 Dwelling Houses	..	..	Fleas
23 Dwelling Houses	..	..	Bugs (Two heavy infestations)
3 Dwelling Houses	..	..	Cockroaches (Two heavy infestations)
13 Dwelling Houses	..	..	Ants and other insects
—			
42	TOTAL		
—			

## METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS

I am indebted to the Council's Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Superintendent, Mr. W. R. Dadge, for the following information which was recorded during 1958 at Panteg Cemetery.

The following table summarises these records.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Number of rain days per month	Highest temp. per month °F	Lowest temp. per month °F
January .. ..	5.60	16	55	20
February .. ..	8.49	18	54	26
March .. ..	1.99	9	57	17
April .. ..	.93	8	76	26
May.. ..	5.02	22	79	36
June.. ..	4.08	16	80	42
July .. ..	4.055	19	84	43
August .. ..	4.03	22	76	46
September .. ..	9.94	15	79	41
October .. ..	5.12	14	77	32
November .. ..	2.125	13	59	26
December .. ..	5.575	9	53	27

Total rainfall for 1958 = 56.955 inches.

Total number of rain days for the year = 191.

The rainfall for the previous years was as follows:—

1951 ..	59.85 inches
1952 ..	51.07 ..
1953 ..	47.23 ..
1954 ..	63.34 ..
1955 ..	51.17 ..
1956 ..	42.99 ..
1957 ..	52.34 ..

Highest temperature for 1958 .. 84° F

Lowest temperature for 1958 .. 17° F







